

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner McDowell for indicating allowability of Claims 4, 8, 12, 21, 22, 25, 27-29, 34, 41-48 and 54-57 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **Claims 1, 13 and 15** relate to **coated moldings** which are coated with a thermoplastic resin that is **capable of repeatedly molding after mixing with a thermoplastic resin used as a main constituent of the molding**. In addition, both resins have an **affinity** for each other at least at an interface or in a boundary region therebetween.

Claim 16 relates to **a method for manufacturing of a coated molding** in which the coating paint comprises as a main constituent a thermoplastic resin **capable of repeatedly molding after mixing with a thermoplastic resin used as a main constituent of the molded article**.

Claim 35 relates to **a paint** for resin moldings comprising a thermoplastic resin which has the same nature as or a nature different from a thermoplastic resin of a coated resin molding and is **capable of repeatedly molding after mixing with the thermoplastic resin of the coated resin molding**.

In contrast, JP 54-047771 fails to disclose or suggest a thermoplastic resin coating or paint which is capable of **repeatedly molding after mixing with a thermoplastic resin used as a main constituent of the molding**.

JP 54-047771 discloses repair technology for a non-coated thermoplastic resin molding in which the chalky part on the surface of a non-coated thermoplastic resin molding weathered by wind, water and sun is coated with a synthetic resin liquid having an affinity for

the **chalky surface** of the thermoplastic resin molding. However, in the present invention, the term “affinity” is defined at page 14, 3rd full paragraph:

“The term affinity means a property wherein a resin for the coating film and a resin for the molding are readily miscible with each other. In the practice of the invention, it is sufficient that the coating film is repeatedly moldable after mixing with a thermoplastic resin used as a main component of the moldings.”

However, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the resin of JP 54-047771 is capable of repeatedly molding after mixing with the thermoplastic resin of the coated resin molding or that it has an affinity to the resin of the molding as defined above.

Hwang et al (U.S. 5,424,362) is cited because they disclose thermoplastic resin compositions that can be used to make molded articles (Hwang et al, abstract, col. 7, lines 4-8). The thermoplastic resin compositions have exhibit good paintability with conventional paints without prior application of a primer or prior surface treatment (Hwang et al, col. 6, lines 60-63). Articles made from the resin compositions can be recycled without separation of the paint from the article (Hwang et al, col. 7, lines 27-29). However, paint and resin are not readily miscible with each other. This however, is required by the present claims. As discussed above, the term affinity means a property wherein a resin for the coating film and a resin for the molding are readily miscible with each other. In addition, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Hwang et al of a thermoplastic resin coating or paint which is capable of **repeatedly molding** after mixing with a **thermoplastic resin used as a main constituent of the molding** or that the coating has an affinity to the resin of the molding as defined above.

With regard to **Claim 25**, Applicants note that this claim depends indirectly on Claim 17. However, Claim 17 was not rejected over JP 54-047771 in view of Hwang et al. Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 25 was erroneously included in the above rejection.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7, 13-16, 25 and 35-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 54-047771 in view of Hwang et al (U.S. 5,424,362) is

believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 17-20, 23, 26, 32, 33, 49-53, and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lieberman (U.S. 5,569,713) in view of Hwang et al (U.S. 5,424,362) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 17, 52 and 58 relate to a method for recycling of a coated molding, an apparatus for recycling and a testing method in which the coated moldings are crushed and remolded and in which the coating comprises a thermoplastic resin **capable of repeatedly molding after mixing with a thermoplastic resin used as a main constituent of the molded article**. In addition, the moldings are crushed and remolded.

In contrast, Lieberman requires that the volatile paint decomposition products from painted materials are removed by decomposing (Lieberman, col. 4, lines 30-36). Lieberman fails to disclose or suggest the method, apparatus and test method as claimed in which coated moldings are used which have a coating comprising a thermoplastic resin capable of repeatedly molding after mixing with a thermoplastic resin used as a main constituent of the molded article.

Lieberman discloses a blend composition containing recycled polycarbonate and recycled polymethylmethacrylate and minor amounts of a compatibilizing agent.

Hwang et al (U.S. 5,424,362) is cited because they disclose thermoplastic resin compositions that can be used to make molded articles (Hwang et al, abstract, col. 7, lines 4-8). The thermoplastic resin compositions have exhibit good paintability with conventional paints without prior application of a primer or prior surface treatment (Hwang et al, col. 6, lines 60-63). Articles made from the resin compositions can be recycled without separation of the paint from the article (Hwang et al, col. 7, lines 27-29). However, paint and resin are not readily miscible with each other. This however, is required by the present claims. As

discussed above, the term affinity means a property wherein a resin for the coating film and a resin for the molding are readily miscible with each other. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Hwang et al of a thermoplastic resin coating or paint which is capable of **repeatedly molding** after mixing with **a thermoplastic resin used as a main constituent of the molding** or that the coating has an affinity to the resin of the molding as defined above.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 17-20, 23, 26, 32, 33, 49-53, and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lieberman (U.S. 5,569,713) in view of Hwang et al (U.S. 5,424,362) is believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 54 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 54 has been rewritten as independent claim. Accordingly, Claims 54-56 should be allowable.

In addition, **Claims 43-48** are allowable as indicated by the Examiner. Claim 43 is an independent claim. Claims 44-48 depend on Claim 43.

With respect to the elected species, Applicants respectfully submit that, should the elected species be found allowable, the Office should expand its search to the non-elected species and should search Claims 9-11, 30 and 31.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the references cited in the following Information Disclosure Statements have been considered:

IDS filed September 27, 2004.


For the Examiner's convenience, copies of the Forms PTO 1449 as filed are attached herewith.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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